

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 IO-13 ISO-00 EURE-00 CIAE-00 PM-04 H-01 INR-07

L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06

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P 101455Z DEC 76

FM AMEMBASSY NICOSIA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 5014

INFO USMISSION USUN NEW YORK PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY ANKARA

AMEMBASSY ATHENS

AMEMBASSY LONDON

DIA WASHDC

C O N F I D E N T I A L NICOSIA 3932

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, CY, TU

SUBJECT: ABL SHOOTING INCIDENT

1. DATT INFORMED BY CANCON OFFICERS THAT AT APPROXIMATELY 1120 HOURS LOCAL 9 DECEMBER TURKISH FORCES FIRED APPROXIMATELY 39 ROUNDS OF AIMED RIFLE FIRE NEAR GREEK CYPRIOT FARMERS PERFORMING ROUTINE FARMING ACTIVITIES IN ABL UNDER UNFICYP ESCORT. INCIDENT TOOK PLACE SOUTHEAST OF THE NICOSIA SUBURB OF EYLENJA COORDINATES WD 362907. FARMING AREA LIES TO THE NORTHEAST OF THE OLD LARNACA ROAD.

2. SEQUENCE OF EVENT LEADING TO THE INCIDENT ROUGHLY AS FOLLOWS. APPROXIMATELY 0800 HOURS LOCAL 9 DECEMBER GREEK CYPRIOTS ENTERED THE FARMING AREA VICINITY COORDINATES WD 383898 WITH THEIR UNFICYP ESCORT. LOCAL TURKISH FORCES IN THE AREA SENT ULTIMATIUM TO UNFICYP/FARMERS TO VACATE THE AREA. LOCAL UNFICYP COMMANDER, USING HOT-LINE PROCEDURE, INFORMED TURK LIAISON OFFICER OF THE ULTIMATUM. TURK LIAISON OFFICER INFORMED UNFICYP THAT THEY WOULD TAKE IMMEDIATE ACTION TO INFORM THE LOCAL TURKISH COMMANDER NOT TO INTERFERE WITH THE FARMING ACTIVITY. APPARENTLY BEFORE THE WORD COULD BE DISSEMINATED THE SHOTS WERE FIRED. THE SHOTS WERE FROM A NUMBER OF RIFLEMEN IN

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VICINITY COORDINATES WD 391902 AND ALL CONSISTED OF

INDIVIDUAL SHOTS OF AIMED RIFLE FIRE. CLOSER SHOTS IMPACTED APPROXIMATELY 30 METERS AWAY FROM FARMERS/ UNFICYP ESCORTS. SHOTS WERE CLEARLY FIRED TO GIVE WARNING. AFTER SHOOTING INCIDENT UNFICYP CLEARED FIELDS OF FARMERS/SHEPHERDS AND STATIONED STANDING PATROL IN THE AREA. SUBSEQUENTLY UNFICYP LODGED PROTEST WITH TURKISH LISISON OFFICER.

3. LOCAL UNFICYP COMMANDER SCHEDULED TO MEET WITH LOCAL TURKISH COMMANDER 10:00 A.M. LOCAL 10 DECEMBER TO DISCUSS INCIDENT.

4. COMMENTS: UNFICYP OFFICIALS SEE THIS AS AN ISOLATED INCIDENT. ACTUAL FIRING APPEARED TO HAVE BEEN DONE ON THE INITIATIVE OF THE LOCAL TURKISH COMMANDER. WE CONCUR WITH JUDGMENT THAT THIS IS AN ISOLATED INCIDENT AND WE DO NOT BELIEVE THAT THIS IS THE BEGINNING OF ANOTHER AVLONA OR KAIMAKLI INCIDENT.
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04 MAY 2006

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